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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-06 SY-05 SYE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 [illegible] INRE-00 EB-07 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /061 W
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O R 301810Z OCT 86
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5603
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 KINGSTON 8073

USCINC O FOR INTAFF

USCINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: GDS 10/30/86 (HAVERKAMP, R.) OR-M
TAGS: PINS, PINT, JM
SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT NO. 9

1. C -ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THIS TELGRAM REPORTS INFORMATION PRIMARILY FROM THE RADIO ON THE PROGRESS ON VOTING.
-- THE RADIO JAMAICA (RJR) NEWS AT 10:00 A.M. REPORTS THAT THEIR NEWSROOM HAS BEEN "INUNDATED" WITH CALLS FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO VOTE. CALLS HAVE COME IN FROM MORE THAN SIXTY POLLING STATIONS COMPLAINING OF THIS PROBLEM. THE RJR REPORTS THAT VOTING GOT OFF TO A VERY SLOW START IN THE CORPORATE AREA, AS MANY POLLING STATIONS HAD NOT YET RECEIVED VOTERS LISTS OR BALLOT PAPERS OR THE ELECTION OFFICIALS AND SECURITY OFFICERS HAD NOT YET COME TO THE STATION. SOME IRREGULARITIES, SUCH AS A VOTER'S ENUMERATION NUMBER BEING PUT ON BALLOTS, THUGS INTIMIDATING VOTERS AT STATIONS WITHOUT SECURITY FORCES, AND BALLOT BOX STUFFING, HAVE BEEN REPORTED.
-- POLICE RADIO REPORTED THREE INCIDENTS OF INTEREST BETWEEN 1:15 AND 9:15 A.M. THESE ARE PRELIMINARY REPORTS AS YET ARE UNCONFIRMED. SHOOTING WAS REPORTED IN DOWNTOWN KINGSTON. A POLLING STATION IN WEST KINGSTON WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN HARRASSED BY GUNMEN. UPON ARRIVAL, POLICE REPORTED THAT ALL WAS CALM, BUT LATER REPORTS INDICATED THE THE POLLING STATION'S BALLOT BOX HAD BEEN SMASHED. VOTERS WERE REPORTED AS VOTING MORE THAN ONCE AT A POLLING STATION IN DENHAM TOWN IN THE WEST KINGSTON CONSTITUENCY.
-- (RJR) ST. ANN PARISH: IN THE SOUTH EAST (PNP MULLINGS/ JLP GODLSMITH) CONSTITUENCY, VOTING HAS BEEN MO ERATE.
POLICE FORCES ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THE AREA "IS TOO QUIET TO BE TRUE," BUT EXPECT NO PROBLEMS NOW. ABOUT 1/3 OF THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS HAD CAST THEIR BALLOTS BY 10:00 A.M. IN NORTH EAST ST. ANN (PNP BROWN/JLP MARSH) VOTING HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HEAVY, WITH NO PROBLEMS REPORTED.
--(RJR) TRELAWNY PARISH: VOTING BOXES AND SUPPLEMENTARY VOTING LISTS HAVE BEEN ARRIVING LATE TO POLLING STATIONS. ALTHOUG MOST STATIONS BEGAN OPERATING WITH ONLY A SLIGHT DELAY, AS OF 10:00 A.M. SOME STATIONS HAD NOT YET OPENED. ON THE WHOLE, POLLING HAS BEEN STEADY, AND IN SOME AREAS HEAVY.
-- (RJR) ST. MARY PARISH: THREE HOMES WERE DAMAGED, A SHOP SET AFIRE, AND GUNS FIRED IN THE EARLY MORNING OF ELECTION DAY IN THE SOUTH EAST CONSTITUENCY OF (JLP ROSS/ PNP WEBB). VOTER TURNOUT HAS BEEN HEAVY. IN EAST CENTRAL ST. MARY, VOTING IN THE THREE LARGE TOWNS HAS BEEN VERY HEAVY.
--(RJR) ST. ELIZABETH PARISH: AN ESTIMATED 25 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE VOTED IN THE FIRST HOUR OF POLLING (7-8 A.M.) IN THE NORTH EAST CONSTITUENCY (PNP DALEY/JLP LEWIS). NO UNTOWARD INCIDENTS HAVE BEN REPORTED. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AT THE CURRENT RATE OF VOTING, POLLING WILL BE COMPLEDTED IN ST. ELIZABETH BY 12 NOON.
-- (RJR) HANOVER PARISH: HANOVER HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY PROBLEMS. THE ELECTORAL OFFICE HAS RECEIVED REPORTS THAT SOME POLLING STATIONS LACK PRESI
ING OFFICERS, BALLOT PAPERS, AND/OR BOXES. 50 PERCENT OF THE STATIONS HAVE REPORTED ONE PROBLEM OR ANOTHER. MOREOVER, JLP CANDIDATE CHANG IN WESTERN HANOVER HAS REPORTED THAT FRAUDULENT BALLOTS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE AREA; POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING. THERE ARE LONG QUEUES IN HANOVER, WITH VOTERS REPORTEDLY PATIENTLY WAITING FOR THE PROBLEMS TO BE SORTED OUT.

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NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-01
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O R 301810Z OCT 80
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5604
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
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USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 KINGSTON 8073

USCINCSO FOR INTAFF

USCINCLANT FOR POLAD

(RJR) ST JAMES PARISH: IN BOTH THE EAST CENTRAL AND WEST CENTRAL CONSTITUENCIES, SOME POLLING STATIONS OPENED LATE BECAUSE POLLING CLERKS WERE LATE AND AT ONE STATION OFFICIALS HAD DIFFICULTY LOCKING THE BALLOT BOX. SOME INDIVIDUALS REPORTEDLY WERE GETTING ANGRY AT THE DELAYS. BUT NO POLITICAL MOTIVATED VIOLENCE HAS BEEN REPORTED. SECURITY IS TIGHT WITH REGULAR MOBILE PATROLS TO BACK UP STATIONARY FORCES. SEVERAL CHURCHES HELD PRAYER MEETINGS ON ELECTION EVE TO PRAY FOR A PEACEFUL ELECTION.
- JBC RADIO AT 10:00 AM CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH OPPOSITION LEADER EDWARD SEAGA, SEAGA WAS ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT HE COME UNDER GUNFIRE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. HE SAID THAT HE WAS TRAVELLING IN A PARTY MOTORCADE ALONE MOUNTAIN VIEW AVENUE IN THE VICINITY OF NANNY VILLE (OPPOSITE THE NATIONAL STADIUM) A SERIES OF SHOTS WERE FIRED WHICH WERE RETURNED BY HIS SECURITY FORCES. HE SAID HIS CAR WAS NOT HIT BUT OTHERE WERE. ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGH THE ATTACK WAS AGAINST HIM PERSONALLY, HE ANSWERED THAT IT WAS BECUSE HIS CAR IS VERY DISTICTIVE AND EASILY RECOGNIZED AND "GUNMEN DO NOT AHOOT AT INANIMATE OBJECTS THET SHOOT AT PEOPLE, NOT EHH". SEAGA SAID THAT HE HAD NOT MADE A REPORT TO THE PRESS, BUT THAT SEVERAL FOREGN JOURNALIST WERE TRAVELLING WITH HIS GROUP AND THEY REPORTED WHAT THEY SAW.
--IN THE SAME INTERVIEW SEAGA TALKED ABOUT GUNFIRE IN HIS WEST KINGSTON CONSTITUENCY THIS MONRING. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN A BARRAGE OF GUNFIRE FROM M-16S AND OTHER WEAPONS, "OVER 1,000 SHOTS" BEHIND THE KINGSTON GENERAL HOSPITAL WHERE A NUMBER OF POLLING STATIONS ARE LOCATED. SEAGA SAID HE SPENT SOME TIME EARLY THIS MORNING WORKING WITH THE SECURITY FORCES AND HAD SUCCEED IN GETTING ORDER RESTORED IN THE AREA AND THE POLLING STATIONS OPENED.
-- IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT HOW THE ELECTION WAS
GOING NATIONALLY, SEAGA SAID HE HAD NOT A CHANCE TO INFORM HIMSELF HE SA D HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT IN WEST CENTRAL ST ANDREW (PNP THOMPSON/JLP YAP) SOME VOTERS HAD BEEN TOLD TO VOTE THREE TIMES FOR THE PNP CANDIDATE AND NOT TO DIP THEIR FINGERS INTO THE ELECTORAL INK. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD A REPORT THAT IN ONE POLLING STATION IN PRIMIN NANLEY S EAST CENTER KINGSON CONSTITUENCY THERE WAS NO INTEGRITY LIGHT.
-- SEAGA SAID THAT THE JLP EXPECTED TO WIN, THAT ONLY "HEAVY RAINS OR WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE" WILL INTERFERE WITH THE ELECTION, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF WIDESPREAD FRAUD. ASKED IF HE WOULD RECOGNIZE A PNP VICTORY HE ANSWERED, YES, IF THE ELECTION IS ESTABLISHED TO HAVE BEEN FREE AND FAIR. (SEAGA WAS INTERVIEWED AFTER HE OTED AT THE HALF WAY TREE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THE NORTH CENTRAL ST. ANDREW CONSTITUENCY IN WHICH HE LIVES.)
-- JBC RADIO REPORTS THAT THE HOME OF THE PNP OFFICE MANAGER IN OLD HARBOUR IN SOUTH WEST ST CATHERINE BURNED TO THE GROUND EARLY THIS MORNING. A FIREBOMB REPORTEDLY WAS THROWN AT THE HOUSE LAST NIGHT BUT FAILED TO EXPLODE AND ARSON, IS EXPECTED IN THIS MONRING'S INCIDENT.
--JBC RADIO REPORTS THAT DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS CARL DUNDAS IS AWARE OF "PROBLSM" IN VARIOUS POLLING DIVISIONS BUT HAS SAID THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT ARE BEING CORRECTED.
-- IN ITS ELECTION DAY EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "MAY THE TRUE WILL BE EXPRESSED," THE DAILY GLEANER SAYS" WE ARE NOT SO NAIVE AS TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE NO ATTEMPTS TO INTIMIDATE VOTERS TO IMPERSONATE VOTERS, AND TO CREATE FALSE RESULTS. BUT ALL THESE ATTTEMPTS CAN BE FOILED..Z WE URGED ALL VOTERS TO GO OUT TODAY AND VOTE AND THUS ANSWER BODLY THE VIOLENT ONES, AND THOSE WHO WOULD WISH TO DESTROY OUR PREVIOUS DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM"
-- THE LEAD STORY IN TODAY'S DAILY NEWS HEADLINES "JAMAICA VOTES TODAY" ALSO CARRIES THE HEADLINE" IMPERIALSIM VA ANTI IMPERIALISM" THE PAPER STATES. "WE EXPECT THAT PARTY TO BEHAVE IN A MANNER CONSONANT WITH THE PROVISION O THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF JAMAICE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5605
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 KINGSTON 8073

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WE EXPECT THE VICTORIOUS PARTY TO BE GENEROUS AND TO CAUTION ITS MORE EXHUBERANT SUPPORTERS NOT TO INFRINGE ON THE RIGHTS OF OTHRS. THERE SHOULD BE NO INCIDENT OF PEOPLE TAKING REVENGE ON THEIR POLITICAL ENEMIES. WHICHEVER PARTY WINS IS GOING TO HAVE ITS HANDS FULL COPING WITH THE SEVERAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE COUNTRY. THAT PARTY WILL HAVE TO REALISE THAT THE POLITICKING OF RECENT YEARS HAS TO END AND THE COUNTRY GOVERNED IN THE INTEREST OF ALL THE PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PERSUASION. THE COUNTRY HAS SUFFERED ENOUGH BECAUSE OF THE PRDLONGED AND CONTINUOUS CAMPAIGNING. IT CAN NO LONGER BE HELD RANSOM TO PARTY INTERESTS. THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE NATIONAL INTERESTS TO BE PUT FIRST AND ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AFTER. ...LET US THEN HAVE DONE WITH THE IRRELEVANCIES, WITH THE DEVISIVENESS AND THE TRIBALISM. LET US PUT AN END TO THE UNCALLED-FOR VIOLENCE AND USE OUR TALENTS FOR MORE MEANINGFUL TASKS. WE URGE THOSE WHO HAVE A VOTE TO GO OUT AND VOTE FOR THE PARTY OF THEIR CHOICE. WE URGE THEM THAT HAVING DONE SO TO GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS QUIETLY AND AWAIT THE RESULTS. AND IF IN THE END THERE IS CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION LET THAT CELEBRATION BE QUIET AND FRIENDLY. LET IT BE ONE IN WHICH POLITICAL ANTAGONISMS ARE PUT ASIDE AND THE COUNTRY GO FORWARD INTO THE EIGHTIES AS A UNITED ENTITY."
-- (RJR) KINGSTON/ST. ANDREW: VOTING REPORTEDLY IS VERY HEAVY, BUT SEVERAL POLLING STATIONS HAD NOT YET OPENED AS OF 12 NOON BECUASE PRESIDING OFFICERS FAILED TO SHOW, BALLOT PAPERS WERE NOT RECEIVED, INTEGRITY KITS FAILED TO FUNCTION, SECURITY OFFICERS WERE NOT PRESENT, ETC. ACCORDING TO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS, A BALLOT BOX WAS TAKEN AND TWO POLLING OFFICERS KIDNAPPED IN SOUTH EAST ST. ANDREW (PNP JUNOR/JLP ISAACS) AND A BALLOT BOX TAKEN IN SOUTH WEST ST. ANDREW (PNP SIMPSON/JLP TAVERS-FINSON). ALSO IN SOUTH WEST ST. ANDREW, A POLLING STATION CLOSED AFTER GUNMEN SHOT UP THE BUILDING. SECURITY FORCES ARE RESTORING ORDER, BUT THE PRESIDING OFFICER IS REPORTEDLY RELUCTANT TO REOPEN. OPPOSITION LEADER SEAGA'S OPPONENT IN WEST KINGSTON, SHADDERTON WARD, HAS REPORTED THAT HIS PARTY WORKERS ARE BEING OBSTRUCTED IN SEVERAL POLLING STATIONS, AND THAT SEVERAL HOUSES HAVE BEEN DAMAGED AND FURNITURE REMOVED BY A FORCE OF PEOPLE "INVADING" THE AREA.
-- THREE GUNMEN IN A YELLOW VW. REPORTED BY THREE EMBASSY EMPLOYEES FROM THEIR HOMES WERE DRIVINGAT 11:45 A.M. THROUGH THE CHERRY GARDENS RESIDENTIAL AREA SHOOTING INDISCRIMINATELY. WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF INJURIES TO ANYONE AND BELIVE THIS IS A TACTIC TO DISCOURAGE VOTERS FROM GOING TO THE POLLS.
-- WE HAVE IDENTIFIEDNO JAMMING IN OUR MONITORING OF POLICERADIO UNITS AND HAVE NO REPORTS OF INTERFERENCE WITH PARTY OR JDF RADIO BROADBASTS.
-- BOTH PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AND OPPOSITION LEADER SEAGA HAVE SCHEDULED PRESS CONFERENCES FOR NOON TODAY.
-- PRIME MINISTER MANLEY APPEARED ON JBC TELEVISION ON ELECTION EVEN (DEC SEPTEMBER) BY PRIOR AGREEMENT, SEAGA WAS TOAPPEAR ON THURSDAY AND MANLEY ON TUESDAY. DUE TO "TECHNICAL" PROBLEMS, MANLEY'S PRE-RECORDED SPEECH WAS NOT AIRED UNTIL LAST [illegible].
-- AT 12:30 P.M. , TWO EMOFFS COMPLETED A NINETY-MINUTE TOUR OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN KINGSTON/ST. ANDREW. THEY FOUND POLLING STATIONS GENERALLY BUSY BUT OBSERVED A SMALLER VOTER TURNOUT AND MORE DESERTED AND SOMETIMES BLOCKADED STREETS AS THEY MOVED FURTHER DOWNTOWN. BOTH PNP AND JLP HEADQUARTERS WERE SURROUNDED BY SUPPORTERS, AS WERE PARTY CONSTITUENCY OFFICES. IN GENERAL, THE CITY AREAS IN WHICH THEY TOURED APPEARED EXTREMELY CALM, IN PART DUE TO A WIDESPREAD SECURITY FORCE PRESENCE.
--COMMENT: AS OF MID-DAY, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY REPORTS INDICATING A DEGREE OF CONFUSION AT POLLING STATIONS IN DIFFERENT PARTSOF THE COUNTRY WHICH CAN BE LARGELY ATTRIBUTED TO UNFAMILIARITY WITH THE NEW ELECTION MACHINERY. NEVERTHELESS, JAMAICANS ARE TURNING OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS, AND IN GENERAL WE BELIEVE THAT THE MORNING'S VOTE HAS GONE PEACEFULLY. BY NOON, MORE THAN HALF OF THE ELECTORATE HAS VOTED, ACCORDING TO RADIO REPORTS.
END COMMENT.
LAWRENCE

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